

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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STATE FOR ARA
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EO 11652: N/A
TACS: SOPN, MX
SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR STORIES ON CHICANOS AND THE
ADMINISTRATION

1. JANUARY 10 LEFT-NATIONALIST DAILY EXCELSIOR
CARRIES TWO LEAD STORIES FROM ITS WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT, FAUSTO FERNANDEZ PONTE, ON RELATIONS
BETWEEN CHICANOS AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

2. FIRST ARTICLE REPORTS ALLEGED "PRESSURES" BY
WHITE HOUSE TO WITHHOLD FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITIES OF CHICANO ORGANIZATIONS. ACCORDING TO
FERNANDEZ, ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR CHICANOS
BEING CONDITIONED TO ENDORSEMENT BY CHICANO
ORGANIZATIONS OF ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM ON
UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS. FERNANDEZ REPORTS THAT ZAVALA
(TEXAS) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, HEADED BY
JESUS SALAS, HAS FILED A SUIT IN FEDERAL COURT AND
QUOTES SALAS AS SAYING THAT WHITE HOUSE SOURCES
TOLD HIM THAT ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT WANT TO OPPOSE
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GOVERNOR OF TEXAS OR TEXAS LEGISLATORS WHO ARE
REPORTEDLY UPSET ABOUT "COLLECTIVE NATURE"
OF ZAVALA AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM.

3. SECOND FRONTPAGE STORY BY FERNANDEZ PONTE
REPORTS THAT CHICANO LEADERS HAVE URGED PRESIDENT
CARTER'S INTERVENTION TO END "POLICE TERRORISM"

AGAINST CHICANO LEADER REYES LOPEZ TIJERINA AND HIS FAMILY. LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER SUPPOSEDLY DRAWN UP AT DECEMBER MEETING OF CHICANO LEADERS IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, ON WHICH FERNANDEZ PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

COMMENT: THESE ARE LATEST OF SPATE OF STORIES FROM EXCELSIOR'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT REPORTING ON ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF CHICANOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND OF ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO "USE" CHICANO ORGANIZATIONS FOR ITS OWN NEEDS. PREVIOUS STORY SAID ADMINISTRATION LINKING UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN PROGRAM TO PRICE OF MEXICAN GAS AND ATTEMPTING TO ENLIST CHICANO ORGANIZATIONS' SUPPORT FOR FORMER AS WAY OF PRESSURING MEXICO ON GAS.

5. WHILE EMBASSY DISCOUNTS ACCURACY OF EXCELSIOR'S REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, WE FEEL DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF FERNANDEZ PONTE'S TONE AND APPROACH IN HIS REPORTS. SINCE WE ARE PLANNING TO DISCUSS THESE WITH EDITOR OF EXCELSIOR AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE POINT THAT SUCH TENDENTIOUS REPORTING, PLAYED SO PROMINENTLY, IS DISSERVICE TO U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS, WHICH OTHERWISE ARE ON GENERALLY HIGHLY FAVORABLE PLANE, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS OR GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON

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